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SHORTAGE OF COAL HITS STEEL OUTPUT

Government Blamed for Taking Cars—U. S. Orders Form Chief Business.

The Government continues to place orders for all kinds of steel products, including plates, sheets, spikes, rivets and various other kinds of finished materials. A shortage of coking coal in the Pittsburgh district, attributed to the withdrawal of railroad cars by the Government, has caused the Carnegie Steel Company to blow out seven furnaces and the Illinois Steel Company three furnaces. The Steel Corporation as a whole has eleven furnaces out. The output of steel ingots in August by corporation was better than in July, due in part to two more working days. Production amounted to nearly 1,760,000 tons.

Consumers have been buying only absolutely necessary material for more than a month, but the market has been fairly steady during the practical suspension of new buying. The market decline has been in semi-finished steel, open hearth billets and seamless. Sizes were offered at \$70, against \$100 in July, as a result of the disappearance of the competitive buying of shell steel for Europe.

Rolled products, semi-finished steel and plate are drifting, remains the only basis for gauging prices. Wire rods have shown some strength at \$55. Remains in the pig iron market continue active, with prices down to \$50 furnace for No. 2 foundry in the East.

A general buying movement is expected when the results of Roosevelt's action on prices is definitely known.

American mills will probably be called upon for a large proportion of the 6,000 tons of steel required for the 6,000 cars to be constructed in Canada for the Dominion Government.

Export earnings are held responsible, owing to results of recent round lots of ship plates at 10¢ a pound. Japan has been actively in the market for lots of 1,000 to 2,000 tons of bars, but mills would accept only a portion, for which 45¢c. was asked. Domestic business in bars for fourth quarter was done at 4¢c.

HAY AND STRAW—All harbor points continue lightly supplied with hay and straw, despite available offerings, the situation remaining strong throughout. Hay straw steady.

HOPES—State, 1916, fair, choice, per lb. 10¢c.; No. 1, 1916, fair, choice, per lb. 11¢c.; Coast, 1916, fair, choice, per lb. 12¢c.; Medium to prime, 22¢c-24¢c.; common, 24¢c-26¢c.; Choice, 26¢c-28¢c.

FRUITS, FRESH—Rain increased with heavy rains, but the market shows little change outside figures were more extreme, and the average of 10¢c. per lb. is still maintained.

FRUITS, DRIED—Apples—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c. RASPBERRIES—40¢c-45¢c.

APRICOTS—California, 19¢c-22¢c.

PEACHES—California, 19¢c-22¢c.

Unpeeled, 10¢c-12¢c. PRUNES—California, 19¢c-22¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Bananas—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Pineapple—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Pears—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Plums—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Tangerines—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Tomatoes—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Watermelons—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Wax Apples—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Yellow Apples—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Yams—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Yeast—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Yogurt—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.

FRUITS, DRIED—Zucchini—Imported dried, 10¢c-12¢c.